In the Specification:

Replace the last sentence of paragraph [00021] with the following amended sentence:

This adaptive bandwidth management mechanism is described in more detail in a United States patent application titled "System and Method of Adaptively Managing Bandwidth on Optical Links Shared by Multiple Services Using Virtual Concatenation and Link Capacity Adjustment Schemes," by MacLean et al., serial number 10/678,807, filed October 3, 2003, the entirety of which application is incorporated by reference herein.